

Kinds of auditions

The following table lists only two kinds of auditions. There are many variations for each kind. Combining options from each allows you to design an audition to best serve your needs and resources.

Name	Preparation	At the audition	Pros	Cons
Open call	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post/advertise audition info.• Create Actor Info sheets.• Create Character Profiles.• Select and copy scenes for cold reading.	<p>People:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Come at any time.• Fill out Actor Info sheet and get scene.• Read Character Profile.• Cold read scene(s) from the play.• Audition in front of everyone else.• Sit in the theatre or rehearsal hall and watch others audition. <p>The director may ask people to try different characters or to work with different people.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You come thirty minutes before auditions begin.• Few things to prepare.• Two or three support people required.• People are free to come and go as they please.• Group sense of openness, community, and excitement.• You leave thirty minutes after auditions finish.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No one is there.• Some have limited time and leave without auditioning because there are too many people.• Some don't audition well in front of many people..• Actors are reluctant to go first. They feel subsequent actors will have the advantage of the director's feedback.• Some good actors aren't good cold readers.• Some good cold readers aren't good actors.
By Appointment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Post/advertise audition info.• Manage scheduling of audition appointments. This will start as soon as the ads are public and continue until the auditions are over.• Create Actor Info sheets.• Create Character Background (BG) sheets.• Manage scheduling of audition appointments.	<p>People:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Come at a specific time.• Fill out Actor Info sheet.• Enter an audition space separate from other people.• Perform a prepared scene.• Leave after their audition	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• You work individually with the actors.• You are more focused.• You control the tempo and pace of the auditions• You can work more specifically with the actors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• People may be late for their time.• People may show up at the wrong time.• People may not come.• You have much more preparation before the audition.• You might not be able to see everyone.

Perhaps you want a combination of auditions, some nights by appointment and others open call. Whatever you decide, the audition must best serve you.

You control the time in an audition if you restrict the sides to shorter material you've chosen and distributed beforehand. It's longer to prepare this type of audition but the number of auditions you can schedule balances that.

In these times it's possible to do a preliminary audition online for people who want to try out for the play but can't make the audition times. People record something from the sides and post it online. It could increase the number of people you see for your show and therefore increase the chances of getting your perfect cast. Be sure to have callbacks in person.

Project Update

Auditions will start on Tuesday, January 13. You have refined the initially scheduled two weeks to only one.